

**MARINE ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING**  
**Friday, April 1, 2022, 10:00 AM**  
**Hybrid In Person/Virtual**

**MAC Members Present:** B. Rose, P. Keener, P. Brown

**MAC Members Virtual:** R. Dukes, C. Woods, J. Massey

**MAC Members Absent:** D. Swygert

**DNR Staff:** Keppler, Darden, Ballenger, Perkinson, Smart, Reichert, Binz, Bell, Snoots, Boyles, Milan, Weeks, Brown, Bubley, Levesque, Finch, Bobertz, Taliercio, Ingle

**Guests:** Chaplain Jeff Shealy (virtual)

1. **Call Meeting to Order – Vice Chairman Rose:**  
Vice Chairman Rose called the meeting to order at 10:12 am.
2. **Housekeeping- Rachel Milan:**  
Rachel reviewed the processes for those attending via Virtual Meeting.
3. **Invocation- Pastor Jeff Shealy:**  
Pastor Shealy led the Invocation for the meeting.
4. **Pledge of Allegiance- Vice Chairman Rose:**  
B. Rose led the Committee in the Pledge of Allegiance.
5. **Introduction of Guests/Public Comments: Vice Chairman Rose/Rachel Milan:**  
N/A
6. **Approval of Minutes: Vice Chairman Rose:**  
Vice Chairman Rose asked for a motion to approve the previous meeting minutes (January 2022). P. Keener made a motion to approve the minutes. P. Brown 2<sup>nd</sup>; motion passed unanimously.
7. **Reports:**
  - **Red Drum Science and Management – Dr. Joey Ballenger**  
Dr. Ballenger gave an overview of MRD's scientific efforts in fishery dependent data collection of red drum. He reviewed past and current regulations; stock assessments and changes in laws to address fishing pressure. He noted that the rise of catch and release fishing has had a positive impact on the fishery. However, MRD's trammel net surveys show a decline in abundance despite regulations. The net effect shows an increase in annual removals from 2010-2020. They will continue to do strategic research to investigate causes of the decline and increase outreach efforts

to promote better fishing practice which segued into Matt Perkinson's presentation.

- **Red Drum Angler Outreach Goals – Matt Perkinson**

The goal at this juncture is communicating the science emphasizing the link between anglers and the fishery population to effect behavior change in the handling of fish. Currently the Outreach section are gathering information, building relationships with anglers and regional recreational fishing organizations, and charter guides through accessible graphics, presentations, and targeted public meetings.

Peter Brown and Brian Rose both commented that education is key and use of circle hooks would greatly reduce gut hooking. Peter also noted that he sees targeting of adult fish and new charter companies advertising the clients can keep meat from trips.

- **Overview of MRRI Coastal research Section's Reef Fish Survey & Coastal Trawl Survey – Dr. Marcel Reichert and Dr. Tracey Smart**

Dr.'s Smart and Reichert gave an in-depth overview of the Reef Fish Survey and Coastal Trawl Survey and how that long-term program assists in State and Federal stock assessments and management.

The MARMAP program has been running since 1972 and collect<sup>s</sup> data on up to 10,000 fish annually from Cape Hatteras to Cape Canaveral. Gear typically used are chevron traps and video clips were presented to show that method and the different species collected in the traps.

The Survey Information is used in regional stock assessments, provide samples to 3<sup>rd</sup> parties, published in reports and peer reviewed pages and regular updates to SAMFC and ASMFC for management decisions.

The Coastal Trawl Survey is primarily a shallow water survey that began in 1986. A wide variety of data is collected at 102 sample stations per year in three seasons. Animals are very small species up to turtles. Data also used in State and Federal stock assessments to help determine regulations.

## **8. Deputy Director's Comments – Blaik Keppler:**

D.D. Keppler's comments included the following topics:

- Retirement of long-time MRD Staff John Archambault, Bob Martore, and Dr. Marcel Reichert.
- Legislative Update
- Replacement of the R/V Lady Lisa
- Sea Wall protection on MRRI Building
- Pond reconstruction at Waddell – working on getting bids
- Genetics Section has made good strides on brood stock for the Flounder Stocking Program

- Horseshoe Crab recent issues: Balance between the resource and those who wish to commercially use the resource. Data gathering is key but as only one player in the fishery – that data is confidential and protected by state and Federal Law.

Paula Keener asked for a Blue Crab status – DD Keppler noted that we are gathering more recreational effort. Additionally, she thanked the presenters for their excellent reports today and thanked Marcel for his many years of valuable work and dedication to the MARMAP program.

**9. Date Place & Time of Next Meeting- V. Chairman Rose:**

The next scheduled meeting will take place Friday, June 24, 2022

**10. Adjourn:**

Vice Chairman Rose adjourned the meeting at 12:10 pm.